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Eliel

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Bibliography: ■ Ginzberg, L., *The Legends of the Jews*, 7 vols. (Baltimore, Md. 1939). [Esp. 3.250–51; 6.88–90]

John Lewis

See also → Eldad and Medad (Persons)

Eliehoenai

1. Son of Meshelemiah

Eliehoenai (Heb. *ʿElyēhōʿēnay*; Gk. Ελιωναις), son of Meshelemiah, was the last of seven sons, all stemming from the Korahite clan and assigned by King David to be temple-gatekeepers (1 Chr 26:3).

2. Son of Zerariah

Eliehoenai (Heb. *ʿElyēhōʿēnay*), son of Zerariah, was the leader of one of the families returning to Jerusalem with Ezra from Babylon (Ezra 8:4; see also 1 Esd 8:31). Descendants of Pahath-moab, his clan of 200 males is the third largest among the returnees.

Adam Stokes

Eliel

Introduction. The name Eliel (MT *ʿĒlīʿēl*) probably means “My God is El/God” or “El is God (indeed)” (Rechenmacher: 15–19).

Bibliography: ■ Rechenmacher, H., *Personennamen als theologische Aussagen: Die syntaktischen und semantischen Strukturen der satzhaften theophoren Personennamen in der hebräischen Bibel* (ATSAT 50; St. Ottilien 1997).

1. The Manassite

Eliel was family head of a clan from the half-tribe of Manasseh that settled east of the Jordan (1 Chr 5:24). He and the other six “heads” mentioned with him are described as “mighty warriors, famous men,” but they are also accused of cultic transgression (1 Chr 5:25), which provides an explanation for their being taken into exile to Assyria.

2. Son of Toah

A Levite from the Kohathite clan whom David put in charge “of the service of song” before the tent of meeting (1 Chr 6:31–34 [MT 6:16–19]), this Eliel also seems to have been known as Eliab (cf. 1 Chr 6:27–28 [MT 6:12–13] with 6:33–34 [MT 6:18–19]) and Elihu (cf. 1 Sam 1:1), which makes him an ancestor of Samuel.

3. Son of Shimei

In the genealogy of Saul the Benjaminite, Eliel is listed as one of the 9 sons of Shimei (1 Chr 8:19–21). He was reckoned one of the “heads of ancestral houses” living in Jerusalem (1 Chr 8:28). The Septuagint transliterates his name as Ελιηλ, thus dif-

ferentiating him from his namesake mentioned two verses later.

4. Son of Shashak

In the genealogy of Saul the Benjaminite, Eliel is listed as one of the 11 sons of Shashak (1 Chr 8:22–25). He was considered one of the “heads of ancestral houses” living in Jerusalem (1 Chr 8:28). The LXX transliterates his name as Ελεηλ, thus differentiating him from his namesake mentioned two verses earlier.

5. The Mahavite, Warrior of David

This Eliel is listed among David’s warriors (1 Chr 11:46). The gentilic “the Mahavite,” occurring only here in the Bible, may be emended to “the Mahanite” and thus refer to Mahanaim, located east of the Jordan. At any rate, it differentiates Eliel from his namesake listed one verse later; the LXX transliterates the name of the former as Ελιηλ and the name of the latter as Αλιηλ.

6. Warrior of David

In the book of Chronicles, Eliel is listed among David’s warriors (1 Chr 11:47). The LXX transliterates his name as Αλιηλ, while using Ελιηλ for his namesake mentioned one verse earlier.

7. The Gadite

When David was taking refuge from Saul in various strongholds in the desert, Eliel was one of 11 Gadite warriors who defected to David (1 Chr 12:11 [MT 12:12]). Their “faces were like the faces of lions,” and they “were swift as gazelles on the mountains” (12:8 [MT 12:9]). In the Septuagint his name is rendered as Ελιαβ, while the MT has *ʿĒlīʿēl*.

8. Son of Hebron

A Levite family head from the line of Kohath, Eliel was appointed by King David to bring up the ark of God to its place in Jerusalem (1 Chr 15:9, 11; cf. 1 Chr 6:18 [MT 6:3]). Further, “eighty of his kindred” are mentioned but not listed by name.

9. The Overseer

According to the account in the book of Chronicles, Eliel was one of the 10 Levitical overseers under Conaniah and Shimei – appointed by King Hezekiah and Azariah the chief officer – who were responsible for the store-chambers in the house of the Lord into which the people’s contributions were brought (2 Chr 31:11–13).

Bibliography: ■ Johnson, S. S., “Eliel,” *ABD* 2 (New York 1992) 462. ■ Johnson, S. S., “Mahavite, The,” *ABD* 4 (New York 1992) 474. ■ Rechenmacher, H., *Personennamen als theologische Aussagen: Die syntaktischen und semantischen Strukturen der satzhaften theophoren Personennamen in der hebräischen Bibel* (ATSAT 50; St. Ottilien 1997).

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